

The committee has provided significant safeguards in the report to ensure that the funds transferred by this amendment will go to planning for the most viable projects and “studies that will enhance the Nation’s economic development, job growth, and international competitiveness; are for projects located in areas that have suffered recent natural disasters; or are for projects to address legal requirements.”

Support for this amendment is definitive action we can take to directly support timely development of critical water infrastructure projects.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I thank the distinguished chair and ranking member for their work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for a positive vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a Joint Resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 88. Joint Resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term “Fiduciary”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 743, the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, America’s navigation infrastructure is crumbling. Most of the locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System were built in the 1920s and 1930s, and have far outlived their life expectancy. Unfortunately, we have

not kept up with the maintenance and upgrades necessary to ensure that they can transport 21st century cargo that fuels and feeds the world.

Sixty percent of the grain exported from the United States goes through these locks and dams before hitting the global marketplace. But delays at navigation locks continue to get worse, lasting as long as 12 hours at a given time. And while a 2003 study by the Illinois Farm Bureau estimated these delays to cost midwestern farmers \$500 an hour, one can only assume how much more these delays cost today.

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress authorized the construction of seven new 1,200-foot locks along the Upper Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway System. This bill also authorized the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, or NESP, an important dual-purposed program that allows the Corps of Engineers to address both navigation and ecosystem restoration in an integrated approach.

It is supported widely by industry as well as conservation groups. In addition, the Governors of five States, from both political parties—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri—and more than 50 bipartisan Members of the House and Senate have expressed support advancing NESP.

Unfortunately, the administration has taken few steps to implement NESP, and, once again, did not request any funding to continue pre-construction engineering and design activities for authorized lock projects on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System. If these pre-construction efforts are delayed further, we risk further delays of these projects actually getting off the ground and moving forward at such time as the moneys for them are available.

With this amendment, we tell the Corps that enough is enough. It is time to stop delaying the necessary work. We must ensure these construction projects are ready to go on day one.

I also want to thank my colleague, DARIN LAHOOD, who was going to come speak on this amendment, but I don’t see him here. It started a little sooner, Mr. Chairman, than what we envisioned. But Mr. LAHOOD, I know, would like to reiterate some of the comments I made. And he represents two of these locks that are included in this study.

Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I am going to try and stall until my colleague gets here.

I do want to say this amendment, this project, has wide bipartisan support. This is an opportunity for us to look at the global marketplace and the products that go up and down the Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway System. This is how we feed the world.

We have some of the most fertile and expensive farmland in Illinois, Mis-

souri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and so many of these products that use these systems are the ones that are exporting into the global marketplace and also to Third World countries to feed those who need food the most.

As a matter of fact, just a few weeks ago, my colleague, Mr. LAHOOD, and I toured some outdated facilities.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I am happy to hear the gentleman’s deep interest in that corridor of Illinois and Mississippi, and I would look forward to the gentleman’s assistance on trying to prevent the Asian carp from moving further north in those channels and into the entire Great Lakes system, destroying our natural fish population.

So I just wanted to put that on the record, and I thank the gentleman so much for showing an interest in both the infrastructure and the environmental restoration in those corridors.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Reclaiming my time, I would like to thank the gentlewoman, too. This is an opportunity to address both of those issues.

Obviously, representing part of the Mississippi River, like I do, we have seen the Asian carp problem firsthand. As a matter of fact, a plant opened in my district not too long ago to process Asian carp to be able to get fish oil and fishmeal that is used for pet food and other commodities. Unfortunately, they didn’t anticipate the smell.

So you can’t really build a fish processing plant around homes. And I think they figured that out. But we need ingenious ideas and opportunities like that to be able to address that Asian carp problem, because it is an invasive species and we need to do everything we can in a bipartisan way to work together to put a stop to it entering the Great Lakes or any other waterway.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I learned that, in the Peoria region, all the natural fish have disappeared now as a result of the invasion of the Asian carp there.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Reclaiming my time, I wouldn’t say all the natural fish, but I know that the Asian carp infestation has grown substantially more than what was envisioned when they were brought in.

Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman’s time has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).